

Agency 05 - Supreme Court

Statutory Authority:

There are two central objectives provided by law to the Supreme Court. The first of those is the obligation to decide cases on appeal. There is a small volume of cases which are exclusively in the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. The rest of the cases processed by the Supreme Court come as a result of an affirmative decision on a petition for further review in a case previously decided by the Court of Appeals or because of the Supreme Court moving cases either on motion of a party or on its own motion to level workload. There are approximately 250 petitions for further review filed in a year. The Court currently grants less than one petition in five.

Vision Statement:

Mission Statement:

Goals:

Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	54,012,913	54,637,976	56,273,104	51,288,455	56,424,757	53,322,467
Cash Fund	1,781,970	3,972,073	5,001,696	7,458,143	4,665,868	9,117,105
Federal Fund	787,821	1,269,758	879,088	810,569	879,088	822,206
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	56,582,704	59,879,807	62,153,888	59,557,167	61,969,713	63,261,778

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Program 003 - Supreme Court Judges' Salaries

Program Objectives:

This program covers the salaries and benefits of the Chief Justice and the six justices of the Supreme Court of the State of Nebraska. The Supreme Court's basic responsibility is to hear appeals and is the highest appellate court in the State of Nebraska. The right of appeal is guaranteed by the Constitution. The Constitution also provides that certain enumerated original actions and appeals of capital cases and cases involving the constitutionality of a statute must go to the Supreme Court. Additionally, statutes provide for direct appeals to the Supreme Court, bypassing the Court of Appeals, and for further review by the Supreme Court of cases heard originally by the Court of Appeals.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	899,127	936,860	941,121	955,287	941,121	975,880
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	899,127	936,860	941,121	955,287	941,121	975,880

Performance Measures:

In 1999, the Supreme Court disposed 327 cases, 256 of them by written opinion. The Court also processed some 314 petitions for further review and 74 petitions to bypass.

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Program 004 - Court Of Appeals Judges' Salaries

Program Objectives:

This program covers the salaries and benefits of the six judges of the Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals is Nebraska's intermediate appellate court. The Constitution of the State of Nebraska guarantees each citizen the right of an appeal from a trial court to an appellate court. This court and the Supreme Court comprise the appellate courts in Nebraska.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	734,095	769,780	773,472	784,824	773,472	801,651
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	734,095	769,780	773,472	784,824	773,472	801,651

Performance Measures:

There are currently six judges serving this court and they work in two panels of three judges each. In 1999, there were 1,414 new cases filed in the Court of Appeals. The Court disposed 1,205 cases, 473 of them by written opinion.

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Program 005 - Retired Judges' Salaries

Program Objectives:

This program covers the salary per diem and benefit costs of assigned retired judges. The Supreme Court has the authority to assign retired judges to service on any court in the state. Retired judges so assigned must indicate their willingness to serve. The pay they receive is defined by statute. Generally retired judges are used in the case of vacancies on specific courts. However, from time to time they have been used to relieve workload pressures by adding resources to specific benches.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	58,731	25,000	27,018	25,000	27,018	25,000
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	58,731	25,000	27,018	25,000	27,018	25,000

Performance Measures:

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Program 006 - District & Juvenile Court Judges' Salaries

Program Objectives:

This program covers the salaries and benefits for the 55 District Court Judges and the 10 Separate Juvenile Court Judges. The district and separate juvenile courts are created by Article V, Section 1, and Article V, Section 27 of the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, respectively. The district judges serve twelve judicial districts. These judges are the general jurisdiction judges of the State of Nebraska. As such, they hear all felony matters, domestic relations matters, and civil matters where more than \$45,000 is in controversy. Additionally, they have concurrent jurisdiction with the county courts in most, but not all, other matters. Finally, they act as an appeals court for appeals from county courts for civil and criminal cases and also from administrative agencies.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	7,688,045	8,078,625	8,159,410	8,222,167	8,159,410	8,399,518
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	7,688,045	8,078,625	8,159,410	8,222,167	8,159,410	8,399,518

Performance Measures:

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Program 007 - County Court Judges' Salaries

Program Objectives:

This program covers the salaries and benefits for the 59 County Court Judges. The county court was created by Article V, Section 1 of the Constitution of the State of Nebraska and the salaries of the judges of the court are specifically provided for in Section 24-513, R.R.S. 1943. These judges serve twelve judicial districts. These judges have jurisdiction over civil matters of less than \$45,000, misdemeanors, and preliminary hearings in felony cases. Those judges outside of Douglas, Sarpy, and Lancaster county also act as juvenile judges. County courts also have jurisdiction over city ordinance violations and have jurisdiction in probate, adoption, guardianship, conservatorship, and related matters.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	6,758,242	7,158,055	7,163,904	7,237,095	7,163,904	7,392,301
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	6,758,242	7,158,055	7,163,904	7,237,095	7,163,904	7,392,301

Performance Measures:

Agency 05 - Supreme Court Program 052 - Court Operations

Program Objectives:

Umbrella Program Number 052 includes Program Classification Numbers 034, 040, 396, 399, and 405.

This umbrella program includes the appropriations for Court Administration, State Law Library, County Court System, District Court Reporters, and the Court of Appeals.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	21,485,500	21,869,630	23,029,729	22,444,329	23,073,848	23,060,603
Cash Fund	613,990	755,896	774,500	968,726	774,500	976,390
Federal Fund	201,774	276,573	355,466	277,278	355,466	277,278
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	22,301,264	22,902,099	24,159,695	23,690,333	24,203,814	24,314,271

Performance Measures:

Agency 05 - Supreme Court Program 067 - Probation Services

Program Objectives:

Umbrella Program Number 067 includes Program Classification Numbers 397, 398, and 435.

This umbrella program includes the appropriations for Statewide Probation, Intensive Supervision Probation, and Community Corrections.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	14,350,196	15,281,334	15,659,758	11,619,753	15,767,292	12,667,514
Cash Fund	615,510	652,365	827,365	3,313,918	827,365	5,198,752
Federal Fund	233,244	378,984	123,622	122,658	123,622	125,357
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	15,198,950	16,312,683	16,610,745	15,056,329	16,718,279	17,991,623

Performance Measures:

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Program 235 - Probation Contractual Services

Program Objectives:

Program 235 covers the budget for state probation services provided pursuant to contractual arrangements between the state and local political subdivisions. The program's objective is the delivery of services that a county may desire, which are not necessarily mandated by statute, but are necessary for the successful implementation of county designated programs. Program needs and fiscal concerns amongst the parties regarding the operation of these requested county programs are addressed by way of inter-local agreements between State Probation Administration and the counties in question.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	552,470	425,333	767,993	767,993	775,161	775,161
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	552,470	425,333	767,993	767,993	775,161	775,161

Performance Measures:

Agency 05 - Supreme Court Program 570 - Court Automation

Program Objectives:

Program 570 represents the court automation budget. This project has developed a court application which is installed in county and district courts across the state. It is currently installed in 92 district courts (all except Douglas) and 93 county courts. The objectives of the programs are to have a ubiquitous court case processing system available to clerks in courts throughout the state. The initial thrust is with the trial courts. Soon the court plans to transform the application so that it can also service the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. Additionally, now that the base system is installed, additional features are being added to provide citizens and users with increasing remote capabilities.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	2,038,977	518,692	518,692	0	518,692	0
Cash Fund	0	2,138,479	2,631,838	2,407,506	2,288,842	2,166,802
Federal Fund	352,803	614,201	400,000	410,633	400,000	419,571
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2,391,780	3,271,372	3,550,530	2,818,139	3,207,534	2,586,373

Performance Measures:

Measures of performance include the volume of cases which are being processed on the system, and the adequacy with which it interfaces with a host of other state and local applications.